

Listing of Claims:

Please **amend** the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is coded for by a polynucleotide which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C,
- (c) an isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and which is coded for by a polynucleotide which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C; and
- (d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, and
- (e) ~~specific~~ fragments of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) comprising at least 10 amino acids.

Claim 2 (Original) The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 3 (Original) The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 which is the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C;
- (b) an isolated polynucleotide having at least 95% identity to the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 and which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C;
- (c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and which

hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C;

(d) an isolated polynucleotide having a polynucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and which hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions comprising overnight incubation at 42°C in a solution comprising 50% formamide, 5xSSC (150mM NaCl, 15mM trisodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH7.6), 5x Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA; followed by washing the filters in 0.1x SSC at about 65°C;

(e) a polynucleotide which is the RNA equivalent of a polynucleotide of (a) to (d);

or a polynucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide; and

(f) polynucleotides that are ~~specific~~ fragments of the above mentioned polynucleotides and which comprise greater than 15 nucleotides.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;

(b) the isolated polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) an isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and

- (d) an isolated polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

Claim 6 (Original) An expression system comprising a polynucleotide capable of producing a polypeptide of claim 1 when said expression vector is present in a compatible host cell.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) A recombinant host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 6 or a membrane thereof expressing the polypeptide of an isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (c) and isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
- (e) fragments ~~and variants~~ of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) comprising at least 10 amino acids.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) A process for producing an isolated polypeptide selected from one of the groups consisting of:

- (a) an isolated polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (b) an isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide sequence having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (c) and isolated polypeptide having at least 95% identity to the polypeptide sequence of SEQ

ID NO:2; and

- (d) the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 and
- (e) fragments ~~and variants~~ of such polypeptides in (a) to (d) comprising at least 10 amino acids;

comprising the step of culturing a host cell as defined in claim 7 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

Claim 9 (Original) A fusion protein consisting of the Immunoglobulin Fc-region and any one polypeptide of claim 1.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn) An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide of claim 1.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn) A method for screening to identify compounds that stimulate or inhibit the function or level of the polypeptide of claim 1 comprising a method selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) measuring or, detecting, quantitatively or qualitatively, the binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof by means of a label directly or indirectly associated with the candidate compound;
- (b) measuring the competition of binding of a candidate compound to the polypeptide (or to the cells or membranes expressing the polypeptide) or a fusion protein thereof in the presence of a labeled competitor;
- (c) testing whether the candidate compound results in a signal generated by activation or inhibition of the polypeptide, using detection systems appropriate to the cells or cell membranes

expressing the polypeptide;

- (d) mixing a candidate compound with a solution containing a polypeptide of claim 1, to form a mixture, measuring activity of the polypeptide in the mixture, and comparing the activity of the mixture to a control mixture which contains no candidate compound; or
- (e) detecting the effect of a candidate compound on the production of mRNA encoding said polypeptide or said polypeptide in cells, using for instance, an ELISA assay, and
- (f) producing said compound according to biotechnological or chemical standard techniques.

Claim 12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide of claim 4 comprising at least 20 nucleotides.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) An isolated polynucleotide of ~~claim 4~~ claim 13 comprising at least 50 nucleotides.

Claim 15 (Cancelled)

Claim 16 (Cancelled)

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide of ~~claims~~ claim 1 comprising at least 30 amino acids.

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Claim 18 **(Previously Presented)** An isolated polynucleotide of claim 1 which is human.

Claim 19 **(Previously Presented)** An isolated polypeptide of claim 4 which is human.

Claim 20 **(New)** The isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 which is localized to heart tissue.

Claim 21 **(New)** The isolated polynucleotide as claimed in claim 1 which codes for a polypeptide localized to heart tissue.